# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# ATOMIC ENERGY
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3626
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2015
RARE EARTH MINERALS
Patel Shri Prahlad Singh

**Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:**

(a) the details of rare earth minerals available in the country;

(b) whether private companies have also been granted permission for mining of these minerals;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL) has been facing difficulties regarding mining leases; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (Dr. JITENDRA SINGH) :

(a) The mineral monazite, occurring in the beach sand and inland placer deposits along the coastal tracts of India is the major resource of rare earths in the country. Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), has estimated the presence of 11.93 million tonnes of monazite resources in the beach sand mineral placer deposits along the coastal tracts of India as on December 2014. Monazite in general, contains about 55 − 60% total Rare Earth Oxide. The state-wise resources of in-situ monazite established by AMD are as follows:

| State | Monazite(Million tonne) |
|---|---|
| Odisha | 2.41 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 3.72 |
| Tamil Nadu | 2.46 |
| Kerala | 1.90 |
| West Bengal | 1.22 |
| Jharkhand | 0.22 |
| Total | 11.93 |

The resources of xenotime, another rare-earth bearing mineral, are negligible in India. AMD has established about 2000 tonnes of xenotime-bearing heavy mineral concentrate containing 2% xenotime in the riverine heavy mineral placer deposits of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Grant of mining lease rests with the concerned State Government. The applications for grant of mining lease submitted by Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL) for renewal of existing mining lease and for fresh Mining Lease sometimes are pending with State Government's.